

REMARKS

This Amendment is in response to the Office Action mailed 01/27/2005. In the Office Action, the Examiner objected to the drawings and the specification, rejected claims 1-3, 5-12, 14-15, 17-19, and 21 under 35 U.S.C. § 102, and rejected claims 4, 13, 16, and 20 under 35 U.S.C. § 103. Reconsideration in light of the amendments and remarks made herein is respectfully requested.

Drawings

1. The Examiner objects to the drawings as failing to comply with 37 CFR 1.84(p) because the reference characters and their placement within the drawings cause confusion. Applicant has added the preferred numerals for reference characters. The previously supplied indicia, such as "P1", have been retained as textual labels of the blocks in the block diagrams. Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw the objection to the drawings.
2. The Examiner objects to the drawings as failing to comply with 37 CFR 1.84(p)(5) because they include reference characters not mentioned in the description. Applicant has added numerals for reference characters. The previously supplied indicia, such as "BIZ SERVER", have been retained as textual labels of the blocks in the block diagrams. With the addition of numeric reference characters applicant respectfully submits that the use of indicia not specifically mentioned in the specification add context and clarity to the figures for the elements which are discussed. Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw the objection to the drawings.
3. The Examiner objects to the drawings as failing to comply with 37 CFR 1.84(p)(5) because they do not include reference characters mentioned in the description. The Examiner provides the example of "BU" on page 5, line 32, of the specification. Applicant has amended the specification to replace "BU" with --BU1--. Applicant believes that any other inconsistencies of this type have been addressed by the addition of numeric reference characters. Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw the objection to the drawings.

Specification

4. The Examiner objects to the specification and asks that "describe" be changed to --described-- in two places. Applicant has made the requested changes.

A substitute specification is provided in the Appendix. The substitute specification includes no new matter. Applicant has made numerous additions to the specification to add references to the preferred numerals for reference characters that have been added to the drawings. Applicant has amended the specification to correct minor editorial problems noted while reviewing the specification.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 102

7. The Examiner rejects claims 1-3, 5-12, 14-15, 17-19, and 21 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Huitema et al. (U.S. Pub. No. 2002/0143989).

Appl. No. 10/011,029
Amdt. dated 02/22/2005
Reply to Office Action of 01/27/2005

Amendments to the Drawings:

The attached four sheets of drawings include changes to Figs. 1-4. These sheets, which include Fig. 1-4, replace the original four sheets including Fig. 1-4. Reference numerals have been added.

Attachment: Replacement Sheet
 Annotated Sheet Showing Changes

8. In regard to claim 1, applicant has amended the claim to more clearly distinguish the claimed invention from the disclosure of Huitema. Huitema discloses a peer-to-peer name resolution protocol (PNRP). What is claimed is a server based name resolution protocol. To make the distinction between a server based system claimed and the peer-to-peer system disclosed by Huitema clear, applicant has amended the claim to provide that the name-to-address resolution index for each of the network servers includes a list of addresses for the plurality of peer devices coupled to the server. Huitema does not disclose a system where any device includes a list of addresses for all peer devices coupled to the device. In Huitema each peer device dynamically accumulates a routing table to other nodes in the network which may not be coupled to the device and which may not include all the nodes that are coupled to the device. [0043] Huitema does not disclose a device that resolves name resolution requests from connected devices as claimed because Huitema discloses a network where each device handles name resolution for itself. Applicant has added the element of the second network server responding to a request for a peer device address of one of the first plurality of peer devices as though the request was for a peer device address of one of the second plurality of peer devices. The second network server is claimed as responding directly to a request for an address of a device that is not connected to the second network server and which does not appear in the list of addresses for the second plurality of peer devices maintained by the second server. This is in distinct contrast to the network disclosed by Huitema where a query triggers a heuristic search of routing tables on a plurality of nodes. [0044]

9. In regard to claim 2, the Examiner rejects this claim with the rationale that all peers utilizing the PNRP are at equivalent hierarchical levels. Applicant has amended claim 1 to include that the servers are coupled to a plurality of peer devices and maintain a name-to-address resolution index for the plurality of peer devices. Thus the server as claimed is now distinct from the peer devices disclosed by Huitema because those devices do not maintain a list of all the connected peer devices.

10. In regard to claim 3, the Examiner rejects this claim with the rationale that two peers utilizing the PNRP that can operate in the absence of any centralized server fits applicant's definition of a common zone. Applicant respectfully disagrees. Applicant's definition of a common zone further provides that a common zone creates a transparent address discovery interface such that a peer on another network appear to be 'local' since there is no need to contact a higher level server (above the local server) to obtain the peer's address. Page 7, lines 28-31. Implicit in that definition is that a peer contacts a local server to obtain an address. Thus the system disclosed by Huitema that can operate in the absence of any centralized server cannot fit applicant's definition of a common zone because the common zone exists between servers.

11. In regard to claims 5-6, applicant has amended claim 5 to provide that the third server is coupled to a third plurality of peer devices and maintains a name-to-address resolution index for the plurality of peer devices. Applicant has amended claim 6 to provide that requests for peer device addresses of peers in the third network directed to the second network's server appear to be requests for local peer addresses. Thus the rejections are traversed for reasons similar to those presented above for claims 1 and 3.

12. In regard to claim 7, the Examiner rejects this claim under the rationale that the peers disclosed by Huitema are equivalent to the claimed servers. Applicant has amended the claim to make clear that the claimed servers are distinct from the peers disclosed by Huitema because the claimed servers are coupled to a plurality of peer devices, maintain a name-to-address resolution index for the plurality of peer devices, and respond to requests for addresses of certain non-local peer devices as though they were local.

13. In regard to claim 8, the Examiner rejects this claim under the same rationale as applied to claim 1. Applicant has amended the claim to provide the same elements as were added to claim 1 and the rejection is traversed on the same basis as the rejection of claim 1.

14. In regard to claim 9, applicant relies on the patentability of the claims from which this claim depends to traverse the rejection without prejudice to any further basis for patentability of this claim based on the additional elements recited.

15. In regard to claim 10, applicant relies on the patentability of the claims from which this claim depends to traverse the rejection without prejudice to any further basis for patentability of this claim based on the additional elements recited.

16. In regard to claim 11, the Examiner rejects this claim under the same rationale as applied to claim 2. Applicant likewise traverses the rejection on the same basis as the rejection of claim 2.

17. In regard to claim 12, the Examiner rejects this claim under the same rationale as applied to claim 3. Applicant likewise traverses the rejection on the same basis as the rejection of claim 3.

18. In regard to claim 14, the Examiner rejects this claim under the same rationale as applied to claim 1. Applicant has amended the claim to provide the same elements as were added to claim 1 and the rejection is traversed on the same basis as the rejection of claim 1.

19. In regard to claim 15, applicant relies on the patentability of the claims from which this claim depends to traverse the rejection without prejudice to any further basis for patentability of this claim based on the additional elements recited.

20. In regard to claim 17, applicant has amended the claim to provide that there is no common zone relationship between the first server and the second server. This distinguishes the claimed invention from the disclosure of Huitema in which all peers have what the Examiner considers to be a common zone relationship. The amended claim is further distinguished over the disclosure of Huitema by including the element of a server in the common zone relationship with the two other servers selectively permitting the derivative common zone name-to-address resolution as disclosed in the specification on page 8, line 30, to page 9, line 5.

21. In regard to claim 18, the Examiner rejects this claim under the same rationale as applied to claim 14. Applicant has amended the claim to provide the same elements as were added to claim 14 and the rejection is traversed on the same basis as the rejection of claim 14.

22. In regard to claim 19, applicant relies on the patentability of the claims from which this claim depends to traverse the rejection without prejudice to any further basis for patentability of this claim based on the additional elements recited.

23. In regard to claim 21, the Examiner rejects this claim under the same rationale as applied to claim 17. Applicant has amended the claim to provide the same elements as were added to claim 17 and the rejection is traversed on the same basis as the rejection of claim 17.

Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw the rejection of claims 1-3, 5-12, 14-15, 17-19, and 21 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Huitema.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

25. The Examiner rejects claims 4, 13, 16, and 20 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Huitema and Official Notice.

26. In regard to claim 4, applicant relies on the patentability of the claims from which this claim depends to traverse the rejection without prejudice to any further basis for patentability of this claim based on the additional elements recited.

29. In regard to claim 13, applicant relies on the patentability of the claims from which this claim depends to traverse the rejection without prejudice to any further basis for patentability of this claim based on the additional elements recited.

30. In regard to claim 16, applicant relies on the patentability of the claims from which this claim depends to traverse the rejection without prejudice to any further basis for patentability of this claim based on the additional elements recited.

31. In regard to claim 20, applicant relies on the patentability of the claims from which this claim depends to traverse the rejection without prejudice to any further basis for patentability of this claim based on the additional elements recited.

Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw the rejection of claims 4, 13, 16, and 20 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Huitema and Official Notice.

Conclusion

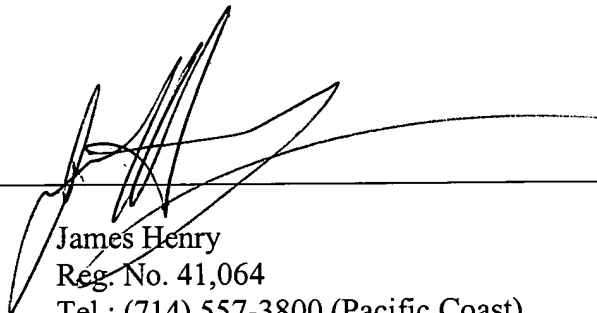
Applicant respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

Respectfully submitted,

BLAKELY, SOKOLOFF, TAYLOR & ZAFMAN LLP

Dated: 02/22/2005

By



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Attachments

Substitute Specification
Replacement Drawings



Figure Showing Changes

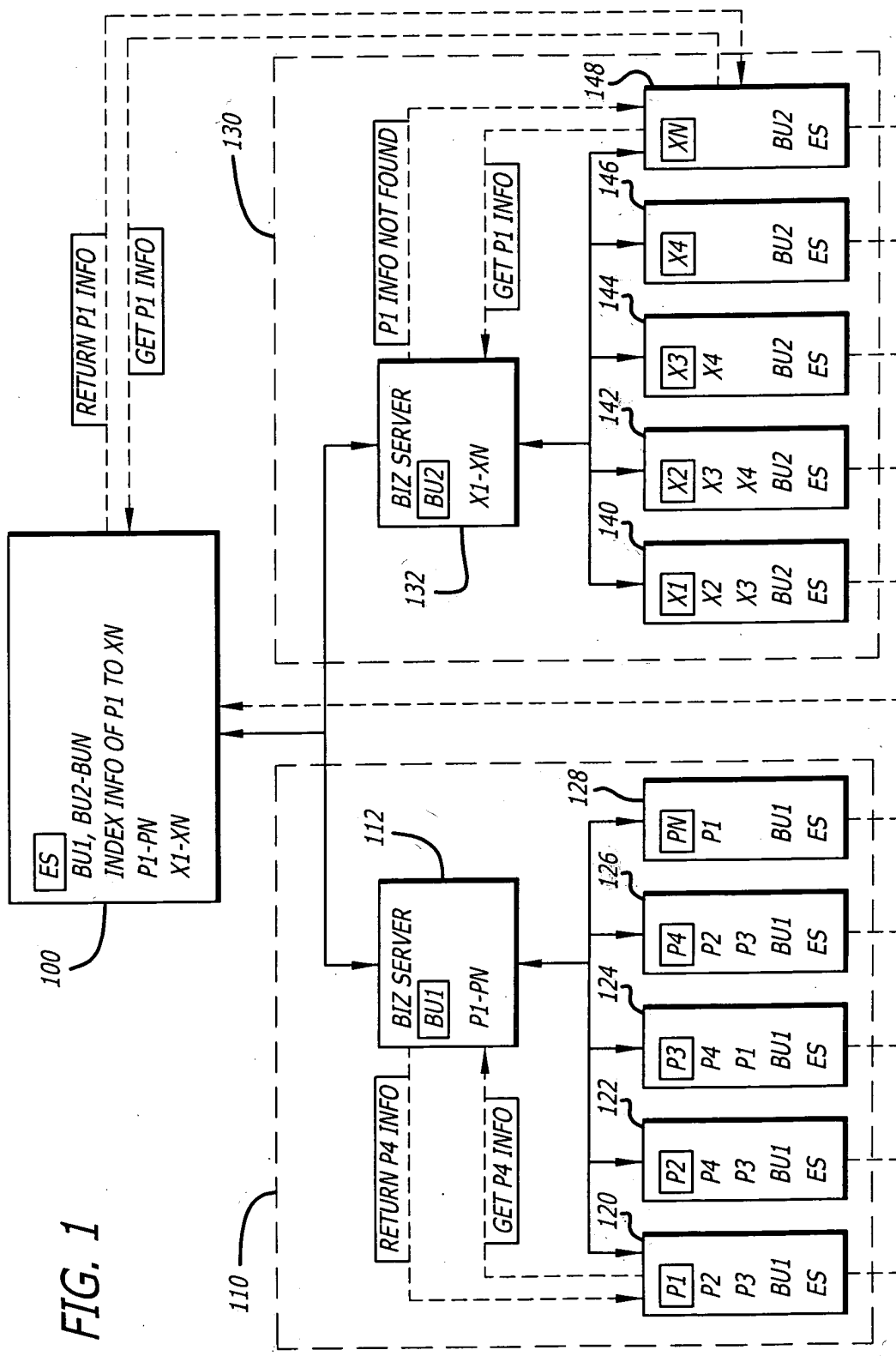


Figure Showing Changes

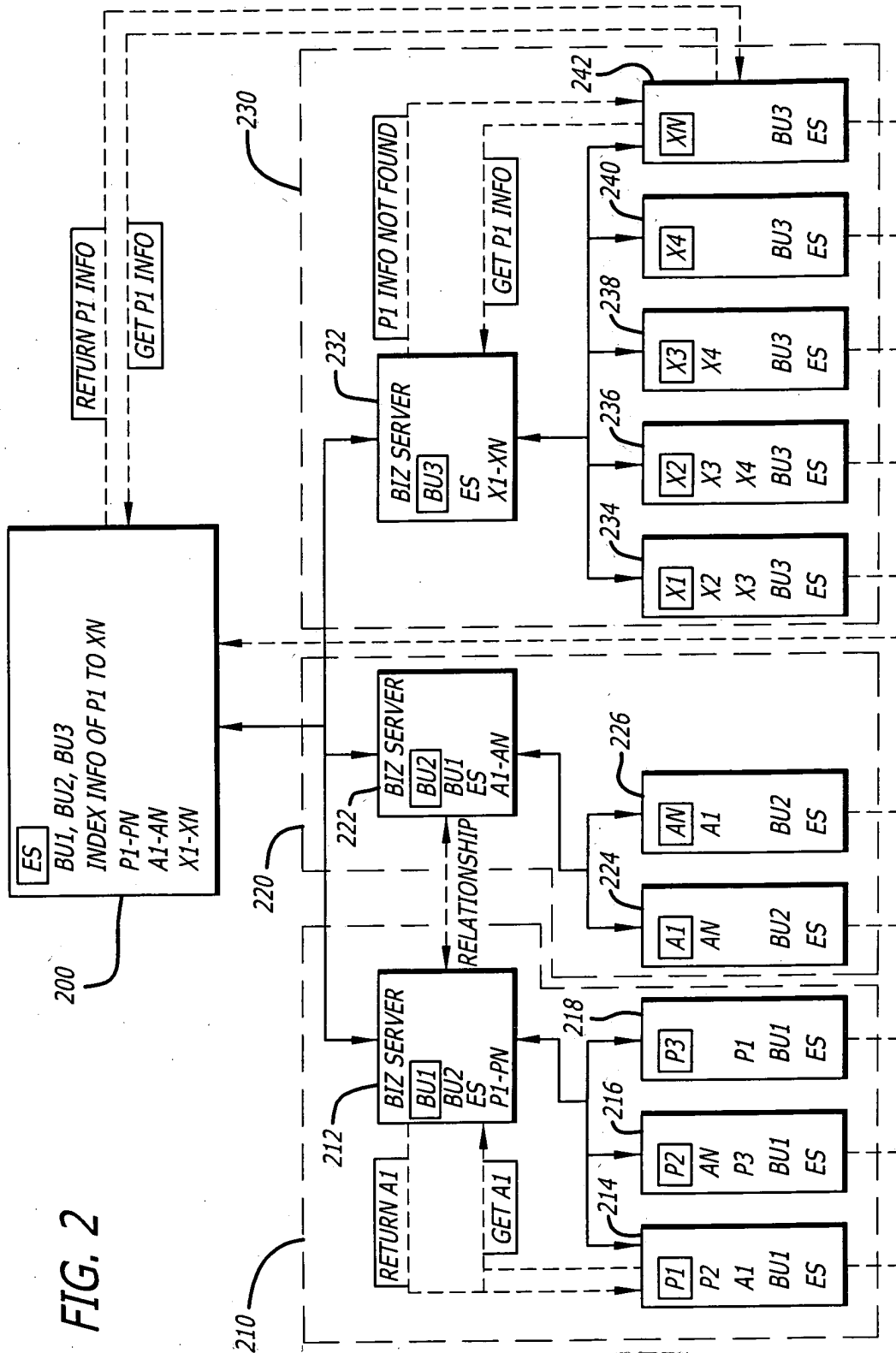


Figure Showing Changes

FIG. 3

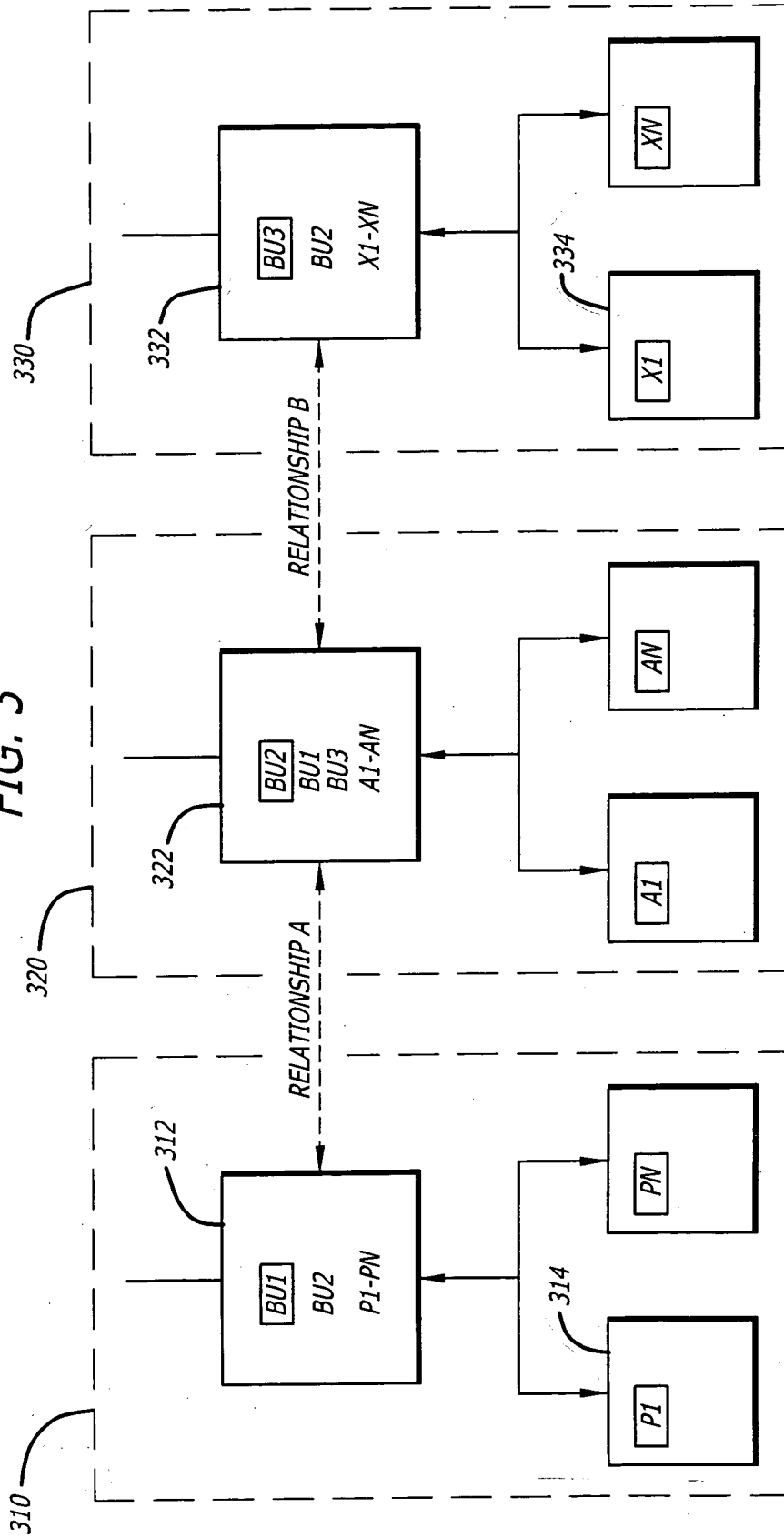


Figure Showing Changes

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